

19 April 1979

Initiating Broadly Ranging Estimates

My paper on the utility of broadly ranging estimates indicated that these are not likely to be requested by policymaking agencies because the need for them is not recognized, or because expectations of an insufficiently interesting product prevents a potential demand from surfacing or, above all, because policymaking and demands for estimates ^{are} ~~is~~ primarily stimulated by incidents that require immediate policy attention.

This state of affairs points to NFAC as the source of initiative. In recent years, however, few if any such projects have been proposed by NIOs, Office Directors, or analysts in the offices, especially OPA.

It is of course possible that suitable proposals would be generated at various levels of NFAC once adequate estimative resources and incentives are provided. But until this happens, and perhaps even after that, should not the DD/NFA perform the initiating role? And, as his advisers, should not SRP from time to time make relevant proposals to him?

STAT